

Message Text

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NAIROBI 8210

FOR PAUL T. LUEBKE, A/OS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASCH, KE

SUBJ: PROPOSED COMMUNITY PURCHASE OF NAIROBI INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL

REF: NAIROBI 6855

1. COMMUNITY EFFORTS TO PURCHASE NAIROBI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL (NIS) HAS QUICKENED UNDER FORCE OF EVENTS AND CONSIDERABLE DETERMINATION ON PART PARENTS AND TEACHERS. COMMUNITY COMMITTEE WHICH WAS FORMED TO INVESTIGATE PURCHASE HAS MET REPEATEDLY SINCE REFTEL SUBMITTED AND HAS DEVELOPED COPIOUS CRITICAL DATA RELATIVE TO APPRASIAL OF ASSETS; PROJECTED OPERATIONAL BUDGETS; AND OPTIONS FOR FINANCING.

2. PROPOSAL FOR PURCHASE GIVEN TO PLENARY COUNCIL PARENTS

AT ANNUAL MEETING FOR ELECTION OF OFFICERS SEPTEMBER 10. BECAUSE OF INTENSE INTEREST IN THIS AGENDA ITEM, SOME 180 PERSONS ATTENDED IN LARGEST CONCENTRATION RECORDED TO DATE. PARENTS GAVE CLEAR MANDATE TO COMMITTEE TO CONTINUE INVESTIGATIONS AND IF POSSIBLE HASTEN THEM. SOME 27 OF 31 TEACHERS SIGNED LETTER READ TO PARENTS AT MEETING EXPRESSING NO CONFIDENCE IN THE SCHOOL'S ADMINISTRATION. ONE COMPLAINT WAS THAT ADMINISTRATION HAD NOT MADE
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DOLLAR PAYMENTS DUE TEACHERS SINCE JANUARY 1975.

TEACHERS ALSO DISTRESSED THAT DURING CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR SALARIES WILL BE PAID IN SHILLINGS ONLY. COLLECTION OF TUITION SLOW SINCE SOME PARENTS ANTICIPATE CHANGES AT SCHOOL IN VIEW OPEN DISCORD BETWEEN TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATION. SLOW COLLECTIONS HAVE MEANT SCHOOL CANNOT SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE COVERDRAFT AT COMMERCIAL BANK TPSAKJICA WHICH IS EDGING UP AGAINST 2.2 MILLION SHILLING CUT OFF MARK FOR FURTHER CREDIT.

3. AS INDICATION SPEED WITH WHICH EVENTS HAVE SUDDENLY MOVED, ROBERT DUNN, ADMINISTRATIVE VICE PRESIDENT, USIU, NOW IN NAIROBI AND HAS ENTERED INTO HARD NEGOTIATIONS WITH COMMITTEE ON A PURCHASE PRICE FOR SCHOOL. COMMUNITY SUBCOMMITTEE TENTATIVELY DRAFTING CONSTITUTION FOR FOUNDATION TO RECEIVE AND ADMINISTER ASSETS. SENTIMENT IN COMMUNITY THAT FOUNDATION SHOULD BE AFFILIATED WITH ONE OR MORE DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS. THERE IS MARKED INTEREST ON PART OF CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION AND SCANDINAVIANS, ESPECIALLY SWEDISH EMBASSY, THOUGH OF COURSE NO ONE HAS YET MADE COMMITMENT.

4. NEXT MEETING OF COMMUNITY STEERING COMMITTEE SCHEDULED FOR OCT. 9. IN VIEW PACE WITH WHICH THIS COMMUNITY MOVEMENT IN PROCEEDING, AND IN LIGHT IMPORTANCE NIS TO U.S. MISSION, AND OTHER AMCITS RESIDING IN KENYA, WE BELIEVE A/OS OFFICIAL SHOULD CONSIDER TRAVELING TO NAIROBI WEEK OF OCT. 6. IF SUCH A VISIT NOT POSSIBLE OR NOT SEEN AS DESIRABLE NOW, WE NEED TO KNOW AT MINIMUM WHETHER DEPARTMENT COULD ABSORB CERTAIN LIMITED PROFESSIONAL, APPRAISAL, AND AUDITING FEES WHICH COMMUNITY MAY ENCOUNTER IN NEAR FUTURE. THOUGH COMMUNITY ENTHUSIASM FOR THIS ENTERPRISE GENUINE, IT OBVIOUS THAT IF PROJECT IS TO SUCCEED USG MUST PROVIDE LEADERSHIP IN EXPECTATION OTHER WILL CONTRIBUTE WEIGHTED SHARE THEREAFTER.
MARSHALL

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